



REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 4-19 and 21-25 currently are pending.

The Examiner maintained the 35 USC § 103(a) rejections claims 1, 2, 4-19, 21 and 23-25 over van Ooijen or Gonthier et al. in view of Kotani et al.

Applicants point out that the Examiner has not addressed the effect of applicants' last amendment which amended claim 1. Claim 1 now is directed to impregnated salts with a particle size of 10  $\mu\text{m}$  to 2000  $\mu\text{m}$  comprising at least one salt of one or more carboxylic acids, which salt has been impregnated with from 0.5 to 30% by weight, based on the carboxylic acid salt, of at least one carboxylic acid that is liquid or becomes liquid at a temperature of 40 °C or below.

In view of applicants' amendment mailed to the USPTO on May 6, 2005, applicants believe the present claims are allowable and respectfully request the withdrawal of all rejections of record.

Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including Extension of Time fees to Deposit Account No. 14-1437. Please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

NOVAK DRUCE DeLUCA & QUIGG, LLP

*J. D. Voight*

Jason D. Voight

Reg. No. 42,205

1300 Eye Street, N.W.  
Suite 400 East Tower  
Washington, D.C. 20005  
(202)659-0100  
JDV/DSK